



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

JACK BARBER, MD
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

Office of Integrated Health

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BioSketch

Dameien Harris, RDH is a Dental Hygienist for the Office of Integrated Health at DBHDS. His role is to provide dental hygiene services to individuals with developmental disabilities through the mobile dental program throughout Virginia. One goal of the program is to demonstrate that given a choice all individuals can be served in nonrestrictive, community-based settings. A secondary goal is to teach family members and direct support staff techniques for improving overall oral hygiene in the developmentally disabled population.

Dameien is a Registered Dental Hygienist who earned his degree from Tennessee State University in 2001 and was awarded the “*Teledyne Water Pick Award*” presented to the student who has exhibited exemplary leadership skills and interest in the profession. He received first place for his presentation at the “The Oral Complications of Cancer Treatment at MeHarry Medical College 125th Convocation.

A native of Birmingham Alabama, Mr. Harris has worked in all facets of dentistry; general practice, geriatric, hospice, and the medically fragile patients. After a few years working in Illinois, he returned south to Atlanta Georgia and was employed in a large private practice with board certified specialists in oral surgery, oral pathology, endodontic, and periodontics. There he gained first-hand experience with procedures and conditions rarely seen. Now in Richmond he left a local pediatric practice to meet the broader needs of a vulnerable population and bring his wealth of adult and pediatric experience to the developmentally disabled community based population. His shared values within the Office of Integrated Health include professional excellence, self-motivation, initiative, transparency, honesty, and consistency.

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